

Spring 2023

ARTiculate

MEMORIAL ART GALLERY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

SOL LEWITT: CONCEPTUAL ART COMES TO MAG

AN ARTISTS' AFFAIR: ART OFF THE WALLS

JOAN LYONS: A FEARLESS INNOVATOR

CRYSTAL Z CAMPBELL: LINES OF SIGHT

Sol LeWitt Artwork Brings Conceptual Art to MAG

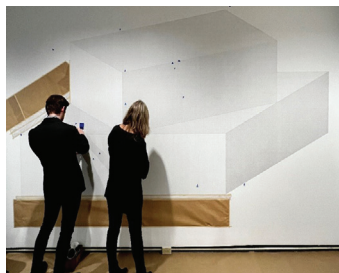
by Jonathan P. Binstock, PhD,
Vradenburg Director and CEO of
The Phillips Collection

In late 2022, the Rochester community was invited to watch the installation of a major mural-scale drawing in MAG's Vanden Brul Pavilion. Fifteen years after the death of artist Sol LeWitt (1928–2007), his iconic *Wall Drawing #957: Form Derived from a Cube* was rendered directly



on a wall in the museum by draftsman for the LeWitt Estate Lacey Fekishazy and Rochester artist and MAG preparator Adam Ranz. If you missed the installation, you can still be part of the process by watching the time-lapse video created by Floating Homes available on MAG's YouTube channel.

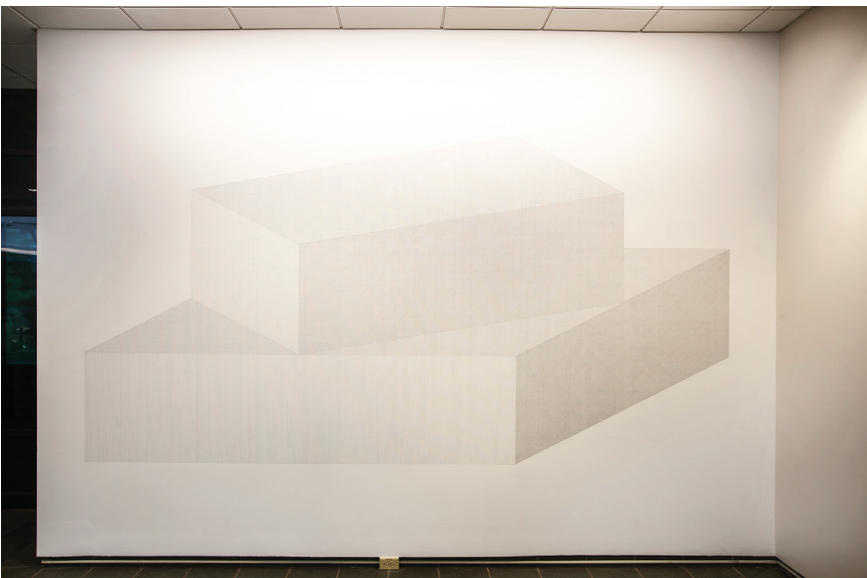
This generous, anonymous gift of LeWitt's *Wall Drawing #957: Form Derived from a Cube* will remain on long-term display as a new centerpiece of MAG's small but growing collection of minimalist and conceptual art. The addition of this work creates an exciting opportunity to introduce and demystify conceptual art for Rochester audiences, a process that began with guided tours that took place during the installation in November 2022. In April, MAG will offer a public talk by an expert on Sol LeWitt's drawings.



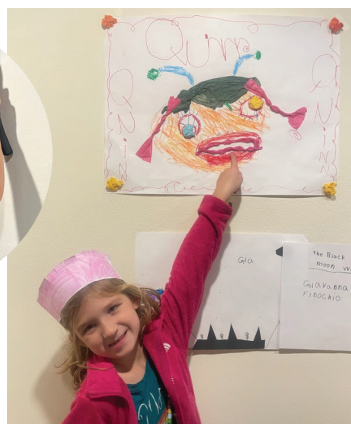
Lacey Fekishazy, draftsman for the LeWitt Estate, and Rochester artist and MAG preparator Adam Ranz installing LeWitt's *Wall Drawing #957: Form Derived from a Cube*.

In Conceptual art the idea or concept is the most important aspect of the work. When an artist uses a conceptual form of art, it means that all of the planning and decisions are made beforehand and the execution is a perfunctory affair. The idea becomes a machine that makes the art. —Sol LeWitt

Sol LeWitt was a leading figure of minimalism and a pioneer of conceptual art. *Wall Drawing #957: Form Derived from a Cube* is an iconic example of the artist's career-long exploration of his signature Wall Drawing format. LeWitt created over 1,270 Wall Drawings, which exist essentially as certificates of authenticity that are signed by the artist. Each certificate includes written instructions for how to execute the work, which is done in coordination with the LeWitt Estate. MAG owns this work of art, which is to say it owns the certificate of authenticity. With this, MAG is given the right to install *Wall Drawing #957: Form Derived from a Cube* in one location at a time.



CREATIVE WORKSHOP



Clockwise from upper left:
Grace Gumina (teacher)
hanging show; Quinn B., *Self
Portrait, Fun with Drawing,
Painting & Sculpture*; Grace
S., *Clay Creations*; Gia F., *Fred
the Fish, Cartooning*

The Creative Workshop at MAG is the museum's community art school, opened in 1949. Our hands-on art classes for all ages are taught by artist-teachers, and frequently inspired by art on view in the museum. For over 70 years we have been teaching, inspiring, challenging, and encouraging students of all ages.

Celebrating 25 Years of Summer Camps!



This summer, the Creative Workshop will be celebrating its 25th year of offering camps for kids! During some school break weeks and every summer, these immersive all-day art camps welcome campers ages 6 to 15. Now offering both Art Day Camps and Clay Camps, these programs have fun themes that introduce art techniques, creative problem-solving and are a fantastic way to strengthen your child's art education and confidence in their own creativity. Depending on the theme of the camp week, campers explore drawing, painting, mixed media, working with clay and more. They will have the chance to make artwork they didn't know they could! Themes to look forward to this summer include: *All Things Animals, Artwork Inside and Out, Puppets, Prints & Pastels, Characters & Comics, From Old Stories to New Art, Drawing & Painting People, Color Patterns & Playing with Palettes, Around the World in 5 Days (and 2000 Years!)* and more.

The Creative Workshop also offers classes for youth and adults year-round (including over the summer!) Visit: <https://mag.rochester.edu/creativeworkshop/> to explore all class and camp offerings.

Have questions about camps or class offerings? Contact the Creative Workshop at 585.276.8959 or at creativeworkshop@mag.rochester.edu.

MAG Voices



Michael Marsh
Interim Director/Chief Operating Officer
and Deputy Director, MAG

I came to MAG in July of 2022 because of its absolutely unique role in Rochester, as a leading cultural institution with deep ties to the community. As deputy director and chief operating officer and, now, interim-director and CEO, I am delighted to share many of the skills that I have developed over the course of my career, while also taking advantage of the opportunity to grow personally by deepening my engagement with art. As I discover the world of art for myself, I am also helping to expand access to that world for the Rochester community. It's an incredibly rewarding and inspiring new chapter for me. (I, myself, come from an eclectic background, which includes many different roles in the legal, business, and non-profit worlds.)

"As I discover the world of art for myself, I am also helping to expand access to that world for the Rochester community."

Since coming to MAG, I have found a rare and energized team of talented people, passionate about advancing the mission of MAG. This includes our employees, dedicated Board, volunteers, and patrons. All of these people are instrumental to the vitality and vision of MAG today. Jonathan Binstock, our former Director, assembled and led a team that is taking us into the future and beyond with energy and excitement. I am proud to be part of this team and I am committed to supporting its work, while also paving the way for a new Director.

As a leading cultural institution in Rochester, MAG will continue to provide meaningful programs and exhibitions for the community, such as the recent *Striking Power* exhibition, our fantastic Celebration Days, the forthcoming Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition, M+T Bank Clothesline Festival, Museum of the Dead, and next fall's incredible Yayoi Kusama installation. We also have a dynamic Creative Workshop that, for more than 70 years, continues to be a one-of-a-kind art education resource in Rochester; and our event venues are some of the finest in the region. These and many other programs and opportunities will continue to show the Rochester community that MAG is well positioned to be an arts leader for generations to come. I invite all of you to continue being a part of MAG and its bright future.

Join us for *An Artists' Affair:* Art Off the Walls

MAG's annual fundraising gala for children's art education
With Master of Ceremonies, Shaun Nelms, Superintendent of Educational Partnership Organization, Rochester City School District

Eat, drink, be merry, and make a positive impact on the Rochester community! Preview hundreds of donated works of art and eye your favorite that you hope to take home at the end of the evening. Participate in a live auction of an Isaac Julien original artwork and a cash call. End the evening with coffee and dessert, while selecting your piece of "Art Off the Wall" to take home. Help us bring the experience of the arts to the region's schoolchildren by providing critical operating funds to support educational outreach.



Saturday, May 20, 2023 | 5:30-10 PM

- 5:30 PM: Cocktail Hour and Art Preview
- 6:30 PM: Welcome and Dinner
- 7:30 PM: Bid for a Cause and Live Auction
- 8:30 PM: Coffee/Dessert and Art Off the Walls



Tickets: \$300 per person*

** each guest will take home one work of art!*

Sponsors Needed!

Sponsorship opportunities range from \$500 to \$25,000 and will help to ensure a memorable evening.

To purchase your tickets, learn more about sponsorship opportunities, or to donate a work of art, access the event webpage via the QR code at right. *Open camera on a mobile device or visit bit.ly/artistaffair.*



A Monumental Celebration

by Nile K. Blunt, PhD, McPherson Director for Academic Programs

Sunday, June 4 promises to be a transformative day for MAG and the Rochester community. The newly expanded Centennial Sculpture Park will open to the public, offering powerful examples of global contemporary sculpture for the people of our region. This accessible and beautiful outdoor space will serve as a place for engagement, respite, and recreation, and will always be free and open to the public.

As a space that features exciting artwork and multi-generational programming, the Sculpture Park has the potential to expand MAG's reach as a community engaged museum, and also to transform the City of Rochester into a museum engaged community!

The Centennial Sculpture Park expansion will also deepen Rochester's already vibrant and robust relationship with public art. It will add at least six new works to MAG's grounds, some of which are likely to become iconic city destinations. Rashid Johnson's *Broken Pavilion*, Pia Camil's *Lover's Rainbow* and Sanford Biggers' *Oracle* are all extraordinary, monumental works by artists of color that will capture the interest and imaginations of people across communities and cultures. To mark the opening of this new and exciting green space, the people of Rochester and the wider region will be invited to come together and experience the Centennial Sculpture Park at a special community-wide celebration featuring engaging activities, live entertainment, and more. Community members of all ages will be welcomed to this exciting day of events at no cost.

For information on how you can support the Centennial Sculpture Park expansion, please contact [Joe Carney](mailto:jcarney@mag.rochester.edu), Senior Director, MAG Principal and Major Gifts, (585) 276-8941, jcarney@mag.rochester.edu

Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition (RFLX)



The Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition (RFLX), the region's oldest and longest-running juried exhibition for emerging and established artists from western and central New York, returns to the Memorial Art Gallery. The 68th installment will be on view from April 23 – August 6, 2023. This year's exhibition is being juried by Molly Donovan.

Molly Donovan is curator of contemporary art at the National Gallery of Art, where she has worked since 1993. During Molly's tenure, she has curated international touring exhibitions, including Warhol: Headlines (2012-13), and Rachel Whiteread (2017-19), on which she collaborated with Ann Gallagher at Tate Britain. Recently, Molly co-curated with Kanitra Fletcher and Steve Nelson, on the Washington presentation of AfroAtlantic Histories (2022). Molly's permanent collection exhibitions and acquisitions have reshaped the Gallery's program to include more works by living artists, particularly women and people of color. Molly grew up in Buffalo, NY, and she is excited to reconnect with her western New York roots as Juror of the 68th Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition.

FEBRUARY 25 – AUGUST 13, 2023

Joan Lyons

by Jessica Marten, Curator in Charge/Curator of American Art



Above, and in detail on the cover: Joan Lyons, American, born 1937, *Untitled* (self-portrait), 1979. Polaroid print (Polaroid 20 x 24 camera). Collection of Joan Lyons.



Joan Lyons, 2022.
Photo by Francois Deschamps.

inquiry into the deeply personal and particular as subjects for her art. To this day she continues to investigate the power and conventions of photography, image-making, and representation within Western culture.

Joan Lyons (American, born 1937), *Happy Birthday*, August 1986. Cyanotype, 2 sheets. Collection of Joan Lyons. Image courtesy of the artist.

Rochester has been a center for photography since George Eastman's first Kodak camera was sold in 1888. In this fertile environment, artist Joan Lyons (born 1937) has challenged the authority of the traditional photographic image for more than six decades.

Lyons has been a fearless innovator in a wide range of historical and contemporary image-making processes, as well as newly invented reproduction technologies of the 1960s–1980s. In addition to her work in photography, Lyons was Founding Director of Rochester's Visual Studies Workshop Press, which she led from 1972–2004. She was responsible for the production and publication of 450 titles, as well as over 30 editions of her own artist books.

While Lyons is adept with process and equipment, her starting point is the idea that the people and everyday objects around us accrue value from our interactions with them. The humble objects she pictures—chairs, plants, a well-used apron—achieve a heightened status as artifacts owned, used, and perceived by humans. From the 1960s through the 1980s, she created a feminist





Joan Lyons (b. 1937), *Untitled (from the Womens' Portrait series)*, 1974, 26 x 19 in., Haloid Xerox transfer to plate and lithograph. Image courtesy of the artist.

This exhibition, the first museum retrospective dedicated to the artist in her hometown of Rochester, begins in MAG's introductory Forman Gallery and extends into spaces throughout the American galleries on the first floor.

The Rochester community was invited to *Meet the Artist: Joan Lyons* in MAG's Auditorium on February 26. The

conversation, with Tate Shaw, editor of Visual Studies Workshop Press and associate professor at SUNY Brockport, may be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsx2TADoEws>. In addition to *Meet the Artist*, Lyons will provide a special tour of her work on Thursday, April 13 from 6 to 7 PM to MAG visitors, (included with museum admission).

On Tuesday, June 13 from 6 to 9 PM, MAG's Director's Circle O'Keeffe, Monet, & Watson Societies Special Event will celebrate Lyon's 60-year career featuring an exclusive tour of the exhibition led by the artist, with a reception to follow. The Director's Circle is a group of art enthusiasts devoted to supporting the Memorial Art Gallery's innovative exhibitions and programs. Annual membership at this leadership level is essential to the vitality of the museum. To join the Director's Circle visit <https://mag.rochester.edu/join/directorscircle/> for more information or contact *Joe Carney*, Senior Director of Major Gifts, 585.276.8941.



The exhibition is made possible in part by the Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fund and the Nancy R. Turner Fund for Special Exhibitions.

FEBRUARY 8, 2023–JANUARY 7, 2024

Crystal Z Campbell: Lines of Sight

by Almudena Escobar López, Consulting Assistant Curator of Media Arts

The latest Media Arts Watch gallery installation features Crystal Z Campbell, a multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker whose practice is centered on “public secrets”—stories known by many but rarely told. *Lines of Sight* illuminates the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, when white mobs attacked and killed hundreds of Black residents, destroying over 35 city blocks of the predominantly Black Greenwood district (a.k.a. Black Wall Street) in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Rather than images of the massacre, this immersive exhibition offers an alternative narrative revealing Black communities that thrived despite the massacre.

In the film *Flight*, archival footage by the Black amateur filmmaker Solomon Sir Jones, who documented thriving Black communities in Oklahoma from the mid-1920s on, is punctuated by the Gap Band’s hit song, *You Dropped a Bomb on Me*.



Still from Crystal Z Campbell, *Flight*, 2021, HD single-channel video with color and sound, Marion Stratton Gould Fund, 2021.64. Photo courtesy of the Artist.

Campbell provides multiple points of entry, intentionally making the images difficult to perceive by using an “impossible” color combination of red and green hues. Three collages from the *Notes from Black Wall Street* series feature archival photographs depicting the rebuilding of Greenwood. The artist applied thick paint to scar the images, their response to the deliberate erasure and silencing of these stories. With each artistic decision and gesture, Campbell employs various modes of making historical records legible or illegible, complicating how we, as viewers, perceive history.

Campbell is a Visiting Associate Professor in Art and Media Study at the University of Buffalo. Selected honors include a 2021 Guggenheim Fellowship in Fine Arts, a 2022 Creative Capital Award, and the Harvard Radcliffe Film Study Center & David and Roberta Logie Fellowship. Campbell’s films and art have been screened and exhibited internationally at the Walker Art Center, Museum of Modern Art, and Studio Museum in Harlem, among others.

MAG visitors will have the opportunity to meet Crystal Z Campbell and learn about their work at a public discussion that will take place in April 20th, 2023 at 7 PM.

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DROP OFF DAYS: JUNE 6 & 7, 11 AM–4 PM

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PLEASE CONTACT: gallerycouncil@mag.rochester.edu or call 585.276.8910

For more information

about programming, events, tours, and all things MAG, visit our website at mag.rochester.edu, or follow us on social media: @MAG_Rochester (Twitter), magrochester (Instagram, Facebook)

Accessibility

Wheelchairs are available in the Vanden Brul Pavilion coatroom. The auditorium is equipped with an assistive listening system made possible by the Mark and Bobbie Hargrave Hard of Hearing Fund of the Rochester Area Community Foundation, the MAG Community Access Endowment Fund, and an anonymous donor. To schedule a sign language interpreter or touch tour for the blind, or to request a braille or text calendar, contact calendar35@mag.rochester.edu (585.276.8971). People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing may call via relay service. We also offer a special cell phone tour for the visually impaired.

Thank you to our Sponsors

ARTiculate is underwritten by Helen H. Berkeley and the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation. The Memorial Art Gallery is supported primarily by its members and the University of Rochester. Additional funding is provided by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Half-price Thursday admission is made possible by Monroe County.



Council on
the Arts



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TOUR

**Thursdays: 6-45 pm
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Tours are first come,
first served, and space
may be limited.

HOURS

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